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## From the Editor

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## From the Editor –

This is the third issue devoted to papers presented at the Shaker Seminar. For me personally it was a delight to visit the New Hampshire communities, meet the people there, and see the land and structures the Shakers once inhabited.

Presented here are three papers from the Seminar. The first is Jane Crosthwaite's study of spirit messages from Mary Magdalene and John Calvin. She argues that in both cases the Shakers missed opportunities to make use of these spirit messages in ways that would have strengthened their theology and led to social reform. Crosthwaite is professor of religion at Mount Holyoke College. She earned her B.A. from Wake Forest and her M.A. and Ph.D. from Duke. She co-edited with Christian Goodwillie *Millennial Praises: A Shaker Hymnal* (UMass Press, 2009).

The second article, by Johanne Grewell, recounts how Grewell's mother and two aunts came to be raised by the Watervliet Shakers, and what their life among the Shakers was like. What is striking is that although all three left the Shakers as young adults, they retained strong ties with and affection for their Shaker caretakers for the rest of their lives. Grewell graduated from Eastern Illinois University and earned her M.L.S. from the University of Illinois, Urbana/Champaign. She spent most of her career as a high school library media specialist, and served as president of the Illinois School Library Media Association.

The third article is by the Rev. Vernon Squire. He provides an overview of Olive Branch, the Shaker community in Narcoossee, Florida. He also presents a account of life among the Florida Shakers by teenager Charles Shaw. Rev. Squire received his B.A. from Syracuse University, and his M.Div. from Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. He served in a number of New York parishes, including Germantown, Niagara Falls, Dunkirk, and Brewster. He was also the director of the Lutheran Inner Mission Society in Rochester, N.Y. and served as Protestant Chaplain at Monroe Community Hospital.

Finally, Sandra Soule offers a remembrance of Gus Kermes, who passed away last May. Soule is a active participant in the Shaker Seminar. Earlier this year her *Robert White Jr.: "Spreading the Light of the Gospel"* was published by the Richard W. Couper Press.